

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /131 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3466

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV VE

SUBJ: PEREZ ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES - NEW GOVERNMENT OFF AND RUNNING

1. THE ADECOS, WITH GREAT FLOURISH, HAVE STARTED TO FULFILL SOME CAMPAIGN PROMISES ABOUT PRESIDENT PEREZ' FIRST HUNDRED DAYS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION HAS ORDERED TEMPORARY CLOSEDOWNS OF STORES FOUND NOT TO BE ADHERING TO ITS PRICE FREEZE. TO LIMIT EASTER WEEK FATALITIES THE GOVERNMENT CRACKED DOWN HARD ON LIQUOR SALES AT ROADSIDE OUTLETS AND ALSO ORDERED OUT RECORD NUMBERS OF POLICE AND MILITARY TO KEEP ORDER AND CONTROL SPECUALTION IN GOODS AND SERVICES. GOVERNORS OF FEDERAL DISTRICT AND ADJOINING STATES ORDERED ALL BEACHES, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC, OPENED TO PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE.

2. DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVERNOR DIEGO ARRIA DEPLOYED TROOPS AND CIVILIANS FROM RANKS OF UNEMPLOYED TO CLEAN UP, PAINT UP AND OTHERWISE BEAUTIFY CARACAS. BARRIOS WHICH HAVE BEEN BURIED UNDER GARBAGE FOR YEARS ARE SUDDENLY CLEANER, PLAZAS WHICH GREW ONLY TRASH ARE SPROUTING FLOWERS AND EVEN SKEPTICAL CITIZENS ARE PRAISING NEW CAMPAIGN TO MAKE CARACAS MORE LIVABLE. LATEST TACTIC

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IS ELIMINATION OF INFAMOUS "BUHONEROS" (SIDEWALK VENDORS) AND

RECRUITING THOSE DISPLACED INTO OTHER JOBS.

3. MEANWHILE EMBASSY NOTES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT HAS TAKEN A PAGE FROM COPEI'S BOOK WITH GOOD WORDS ABOUT "IDEOLOGICAL PLURALIS".

HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS RECEIVED WIDE AND VERY FAVORABLE LOCAL COVERAGE.

4. OBSERVERS (OTHER THAN FAT CATS WHO HAVE BEEN HURT) ARE GENERALLY EVINCING PLEASED SURPRISE AT RESULTS OF PRESIDENT PEREZ' FIRST MONTH. COPEI SNIPES AT THE GOMERNMENT, BUT AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL RELATIONS ARE STILL QUITE CORRECT. FRONT PAGES APRIL 18 FEATURE ON ONE SIDE A PICTURE OF CALDERA CALLING ON PEREZ AND ON THE OTHER THE TWO FIRST

LADIES MEETING AMIABLY.
MCCLINTOCK

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